

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A custom handheld system, or system to adapt a personal mobile computing device, such as a handheld Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or cellular telephone, to enable a user to enact and review media choices through wireless control of media-playing devices by the handheld device, and to present media directories on its display. Access to information that enables content directory choices, such as TV program schedule items or CD music track titles, is provided through the native Internet, modem, or other network connectivity of the handheld device. The system provides for uniform interfaces for control and content choices on different media player devices, and provides ways to use the limited handheld device's physical button interfaces to enable audio muting and personalized content surfing with one hand, without requiring use of the handheld device's stylus or touch sensitive display screen. The handheld directories may present personalized views of media choices based on a user's past choices, other profile elements, and information from networked and Internet databases.